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OCI-1129/64
6 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission 0074E,
Flown 1 March 1964

1. This mission, the sixth in the current series searching for Viet Cong and Pathet Lao activity, reported no significant items of immediate intelligence value. However, good photographic coverage was provided of virtually the entire southern half of Laos as far north as Xieng Khouang and as far west as Muong Kassy.

2. Twenty-three areas of military activity were photographed, twelve of which belong to the Pathet Lao. The most significant of these were the Pathet Lao Headquarters complex at Khang Khay on the Plaine des Jarres, which has 90 barracks and storage/support buildings, and the Lak Sao Army barracks with a total of 26 buildings. Lak Sao has undergone a slight change since the last photographic coverage in [redacted]. Nine buildings have been razed at the main camp but another camp of 11 buildings a few miles north has been detected.

3. An extensive complex south of Saravane--probably belonging to the FAR--was photographed. It includes four secured strongpoints with a total of 31 buildings, the Saravane airfield, and another short sod strip. There were numerous vehicle tracks in this area. Most of the other military areas were fairly small and consisted of either a small number of buildings (less than 20) or several strongpoints with encircling trench systems. Eight of the twenty-three military areas contained no emplacements or signs of activity.

4. Four suspect infiltration areas, previously covered by missions of this series, were covered again with no trace of any activity. Two supply areas were also covered again with no signs of activity.

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5. Seven airfields were photographed, two of which were sod strips which have not previously been seen. The only new activity noted was the construction of four new AAA sites at Pakse, an FAR field.

6. Six possible logistical supply routes were covered. All were in FAR controlled areas. No trace of any supply activity was discernible. Sixteen widely scattered vehicles were photographed on Route 13 between Savannakhet and the Cambodian border.

7. Segments of two roads in North Vietnam--Route 7 and Route 8--were photographed. A camp with ten barracks and ten storage and support buildings was noted just south of Route 7. This camp could possibly be associated with North Vietnamese activities in Laos. The segment of Route 8 that was covered revealed a 220 foot bridge over the Nam Muc River and four widely dispersed vehicles heading east into North Vietnam.

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